

Global LCA Village (<http://www.ecomed.de/journals>) (State: April 1999)

About Global LCA Village

Global LCA Village is an independent forum which serves the continuous flow of information for LCA scientists and practitioners and provides a lively discussion on hot topics in LCA.

Global LCA Village is free of charge and open to everyone.

Global LCA Village has no peer-review process for contributions in a strict sense. If, however, there is some doubt about the quality of a contribution, Walter Klöpffer, Ph.D., Professor of Physical Chemistry, Editor-in-Chief of Int. J. LCA, and Ir. José Potting, Internet-Editor of Int. J. LCA, will jointly decide about the acceptance.

Global LCA Village is a joint initiative from Int. J. LCA and LCA-Steering Committee from SETAC-Europe (Society of Environmental Toxicology and Advanced Chemistry).

Global LCA Village also provides links to the homepage of Int. J. LCA (sections "Forthcoming Articles", "Editorials" and "Letters to the Editor"), and to the homepage of SETAC.

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<http://www.setac.org/lca.html>

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SETAC-Working Groups

- SETAC-Europe, Second Working Group on Life Cycle Impact Assessment (WIA-2): Best Available Practice Regarding Impact Categories and Category Indicators in Life Cycle Impact Assessment (Background Document). (February 1999)
- Arnold Tukker, TNO-STB, NL-2600 JA Delft, The Netherlands: Life Cycle Impact Assessment – Some Remarks. (February 1999)
- Walter Klöpffer, C.A.U. GmbH, WG Assessment of Chemicals, Products and Systems, D-63303 Dreieich, Germany: Impact Categories and Category Indicators – Response
- Walter Klöpffer: Start of the SETAC-Europe Working Group on Life Cycle Impact Assessment-2 (WIA-2): Comments to the Present State of LCIA and Possible Improvements
- Rolf Bretz, Ciba Speciality Chemicals Inc., CH-4002 Basle, Switzerland: SETAC LCA Workgroup: Data Availability and Data Quality

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- Rebuttal to Marsmann et al. by Hertwich and Pease (Edgar Hertwich, Energy & Resources Group, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA 94720-3050, USA): Value Judgements and the Public Right. (April 1999)
- Reply by Marsmann et al. (Manfred Marsmann, Bayer AG, KS-QUS, Product Stewardship, D-51368 Leverkusen, Germany)
- Restricts Use and Development of Impact Assessment. Comment by Hertwich and Pease

Summary of the ISO-14042 Debate

In the first contribution to the Global LCA Village, reprinted in this Journal (Int. J. LCA 3/4, 180-181, 1998), HERTWICH and PEASE have criticized ISO 14042 for being natural-science biased, promoting corporate secrecy about emissions, and inhibiting or distorting innovation in LCA methods. MARSMANN et al. responded (Int. J. LCA 4/2, 65, 1999), that "much of the effort has been to separate natural science-based analysis from the use of social science-based value judgements." The standard's restrictions on the publication of LCA results is justified by "an obligation to protect the legal rights of third parties". In a rebuttal to MARSMANN et al., which is now available on the Global LCA Village, HERTWICH and PEASE identify a number of value judgements in the Global Warming Potential to support their assertion that a separation of science and judgements is not possible, not even in the characterization step of LCIA. The public disclosure of emissions data, they argue, is supported by economic theory as well as the experience of "right to know" initiatives in the US. It is now being promoted by the World Bank as a pollution control strategy.

The Global LCA Village welcomes the lively discussion on this important issue and invites further comments.

The Use of LCA in Developing Countries

- Matthias Fawer, EMPA, CH-9014 St. Gallen, Switzerland:
A Meaningful Use of LCA in Countries of the South (April 1999)

Up to now, only little has been written about the sense and nonsense of LCA for developing countries. An interesting aspect of the discussion is whether these countries NOT have so far more basic environmental problems to tackle; so to say, the kind of problems that we, in the west, have now more or less under control (local high concentrations, end-of-pipe measures, process integrated measures). On the other hand, developing countries are sometimes ahead on the west because they are not settled up with outdated industrial technologies. Is LCA a luxury tool, or has it also something to offer for these countries?

A first contribution has been made by Matthias Fawer from EMPA St. Gallen who is working together with developing countries. Contributions and comments are welcomed.